THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A statement containing the information is annexed hereto. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 12]

(c) and (d) Since the taxes, in all cases disposed of by the Settlement Commission, are collected by the respective Assessing Officers, spread over throughout the country, information about the amount of taxes collected or its proportion to other collections is not available.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Plight of Handloom Weavers

298. SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the distressing plight of the handloom weavers in the country in general and that of Andhra Pradesh in particular;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to amiliorate their conditions; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the new textile policy in view of the fact that the new policy has not helped to solve the problem of the handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The main problems which have been confronting the handloom weavers in the country, including Andhra Pradesh, are rise in prices of cotton yarn and the inability of the handloom sector to market its products due to competition from the powerloom sector. It has been reported that the livelihood of handloom weavers in certain areas of Andhra Pradesh had been badly effected due to reduced demand for some exportable items produced by them.

(b) (i) Various steps have been taken to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to the handloom sector in the country at reasonable price, such as the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme, Loan Assistance to National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of new Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills and expansion of existing units and through the operations of the National Handloom Development Corporation. In addition to the above, in order to safeguard the interests of the handloom weavers, Government has suspended the exports of hank yarn of counts 60s and below and export of cotton is permitted only after taking into account the interests of the handloom sector into consideration. Yarn prices have also shown a slightly diminishing trend during the past fortnight. Further a decision has been recently taken to set up twenty yarn depots by the National Handloom Development Corporation for supply of hank yarn at competitive prices. These depots will start functioning soon in areas of Weavers' concentration and in yarn deficit States.

(ii) The following relief measures have been taken to ameliorate the conditions of the handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh:—

(1) In order to promote the market for the items produced by the handloom weavers in the affected areas of Andhra Pradesh, cotton check shirting had been identified to have export potential and the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation has placed sample orders on the weavers' agencies in the affected areas.

(2) Central Government released an amount of Rs. 60 lakhs as special advance for providing gainful employment to the unemployed weavers.

(3) Government of Andhra Pradesh have sanctioned Rs. 50 lakhs to issue consumption loans to affected weavers through District Cooperative Central Banks in the State.

(iii) A number of fiscal concessions have been provided to the handloom sector in order to mitigate the hardship faced by it *vis-a-vis* the powerloom sector. Further 22 itmes have been reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector. The Act and Orders issued in this regard have been stayed by Supreme Court of India. Vigorous steps are being taken to vacate the stay.

(c) Government of India have consituted a high power Committee to review the progress of implementation of the Textile Policy, 1985. The Committee is also expected to make an assessment as to how far various measures devised in the Policy for protecting of handlooms have been effective in achieving their objectives.

Courts functioning from rented buildings

299. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Courts which are functioning from rented buildings in the country; and

(b) by when Court buildings are proposed to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are required to provide infrastructure facilities including Court buildings.

Execution of Narmada Dam Project

300. SHRI HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the execution of the Narmada Dam Project has started and if not, when the work is likely to start;

(b) what is the investment proposed for the same;

(c) whether some Non Resident Indians have been invited to contribute resources for the project; and

(d) if so, what is their response in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir; the work on the Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat has been taken up.

(b) About Rupees six thousand four hundred crores.

(c) and (d) Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited has recently launched Public Deposit Scheme under the Companies Act, 1961. Under the Scheme the non-resident Indians are also eligible to make deposits within the prescribed ceiling.

Pending cases in Supreme Court/ High Courts

301. SHRI HARI SINGH :
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that arrears of cases in the Supreme